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D24

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

U. S. Department of Agriculture

A summary of significant events of interest to USDA management

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PROCUHEMENT

FORMS AND REPORTS REDUCTION MANDATED.....Secretary's Memorandum 1885 kicks off campaign to reduce forms by 20% and reports by 10% by February 27, 1976. Agencies must demonstrate WHY NOT if goal not reached. J.P. Bolduc to chair steering committee of J.E. Carson, APHIS; J.W. Deinema, FS; F.W. Naylor, Jr., FmHA; W.L. Ruble, ASCS; N.A. Berg, SCS; and T.B. Kinney, Jr., ARS. Mr. Bolduc will meet shortly with agency heads to discuss campaign. OMF to provide staff work to support campaign. OA to check validity of information agencies turn in, adequacy of steps agencies take to implement reduction, and verify accuracy of savings and results. DUE DATE: Send OMF Management Division inventory of NUMBER of current agency forms, excluding those used in public reporting, by December 1, 1975. (Contact: C.R. Hanna, OMF, ext. 76111)

EMPLOYEE "ADMINISTRATIVE HOT-LINE" SET UP.....To be used by employees wishing to informally make suggestions or discuss problems pertaining to Department's Administrative Services. Will operate during November on TRIAL BASIS to see how many calls will come in and how effective system will be. If beneficial, it may be expanded to field offices. Call 447-7270 to leave recorded message. (Contact: J.P. Bolduc, SEC, ext. 77247)

OA REVIEWING ADP SYSTEMS DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT.....Result of suggestion at ADS Downingtown conference. Underway on limited basis for certain aspects of systems under development at NFC (Uniform Accounting System), FNS-Fannie Prudent System, and some systems of FmHA and other USDA agencies. Currently surveying and inventorying all major systems under development in USDA. Certain of these will be selected for review during latter half of FY 1976 through FY 1977. For these reviews, OA will increase training of auditors in system analysis and design. (Contact: William Forsythe, OA, ext. 74646.)

WILLIAM H. WALKER III NOMINATED TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.... Area of responsibility Rural Development. Currently Deputy Administrator, AMS. Served as Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Received B.S. and M.S. from University of Tennessee. Married, two children.

CLARIFICATION RECEIVED ON COMPUTER PROCUREMENT NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.....

Conference report on Appropriations Bill had requirement. USDA will notify House and Senate Committees of all ADP procurements totalling \$25,000 or more (annualized lease or purchase) before procurement is consummated. This notification, initiated by ADS, will not hold up procurement process. If an agency believes a particular procurement under \$25,000 might be considered "sensitive" for one reason or another, please notify ADS (Contact: J. Erb, ADS, ext. 72803).

KCCC, NOCC, AND WCC USERS TO GET \$1.02 MILLION REBATE....This for first quarter FY 1976 and in addition to 25% rate reduction instituted on January 1, 1975. Result of continuing ADS efforts to improve internal financial management. (Contact: H.W. Meetze, ADS, ext. 76275)

WILLIAM E. KIBLER APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR, SRS, ON NOVEMBER 9.....
Served in SRS since 1961 holding variety of assignments. Was Princeton Fellow in 1967. Married; three children; native of Raleigh, N.C.; graduate of Meredith College.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE.....As a Government official, you CANNOT:

... EXGEPT in discharge of official duties, represent anyone else before a court or Government agency in matter in which U.S. is a party or has an interest. This prohibition applies both to paid and unpaid representation of another.

... participate in your governmental capacity in any matter in which you, your spouse, minor child, outside business associate, or person with whom you are negotiating for employment has a financial interest.

... after your Government employment has ended, represent anyone other than U.S. in connection with matter in which U.S. is a party or has an interest and in which you participated personally and substantially for the Government.

... for one year after your Government employment has ended, represent anyone other than U.S. in connection with a matter in which U.S. is a party or has an interest and which was within the boundaries of your official responsibility during the last year of your Government service. This temporary restraint, of course, gives way to the permanent restraint described above if the matter is one in which you participated personally and substantially.

... receive any salary, or supplementation of your Government salary, from private source as compensation for your services to Government.

As a FORMER Government official, you CAN:

... represent another person with respect to matters governed by a general rule or policy which you formulated or helped to formulate. (Activity of a former employee is proscribed only when it involves a <u>specific party</u> in a matter in which the employee participated <u>personally</u> and <u>substantially</u> or was under his <u>official responsibility</u>.) (Contact: Bob Siegler, OGC, ext. 76035)

EEO COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH STAFF DIRECTORS....Will provide chance for Committee to find out what offices doing and what needs to be done about EEO program. (Contact: Bob Birdsong, OP, ext. 72973)

May

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN F.Y. 1975 APHIS:

... Inspected more than 119 million animals and 3 billion chickens, turkeys, and other poultry to help make sure supplies of meat and poultry are safe and wholesome.

... Inspected more than 2,500,000,000 pounds of canned meat products, nearly 312,000,000 pounds of canned hams, and more than 4,483,000,000 pounds of processed and prepared poultry to help make sure the products were safe, wholesome, and properly labeled.

... Inspected 261,000 airplanes arriving from foreign countries and processed nearly 40,000,000 airline passengers' bags; boarded and inspected nearly 66,000 ships and processed nearly 119,000 shipboard passengers bags; and inspected approximately 42,000,000 vehicles crossing the border from Mexico to protect U.S. plants and animals from harmful foreign pests.

... Intercepted 700,671 lots of prohibited plant material; 310,980 pounds of prohibited animal byproducts; 33,986 plant pests and diseases that could have become established and caused severe

losses in U.S.

... Continued to prevent western spread of boll weevil into highly productive cotton acreage by treating a total of 591,107 acres in High Plains and Big Bend areas of Texas.

.. Maintained level of efficiency in control treatments for imported

fire ant of 97 to 98 percent mortality in treated mounds.

... Supervised predeparture inspection of 10,000 military personnel and equipment on 140 aircraft leaving Germany to prevent introduction of foreign agricultural pest to the U.S.

.. Supervised predeparture inspection in Guam of thousands of Vietnamese refugees and their belongings as they boarded flights

to U.S.

... Applied treatments for control or eradication of destructive Japanese beetle on 9,437 acres in California, Georgia, Michigan, and Ohio. Another 5,600 acres were treated at military facilities to reduce hazard of spread by military aircraft.

... Detected infestation of oriental fruit fly in California in September 1974, immediately set up emergency regulations, and

declared complete eradication in April 1975.

... Begun cooperative program with Mexico to eradicate screwworms from that country to eliminate annual threat of U.S. reinfestation and save livestock producers and consumers millions of dollars a year.

... Brought 33 charges under the Horse Protection Act during the year that resulted in collection of \$17,875 in penalties as part of effort to stop inhumane practice of "soring" horses for show

ring.

.. Conducted swine brucellosis eradication program under which two additional States qualified as brucellosis free, bringing total

number of States under this designation to 14.

... Selected site for new animal import center for U.S. that will enable livestock producers to bring in safely more breeding animals to improve animal bloodlines, thus increasing volume and efficiency of meat production; and will also enable zoological parks to bring in more exotic animals.

GSA FY 1976 BUDGET LIMITATIONS MAY IMPACT ON USDA....Although funds available in Federal Buildings Fund, ceilings have been placed on expenditures. Transfer of funds between programs prohibited. Leasing hardest hit. Priorities may have to be established and some space acquisition deferred. More definite word expected within next month on impact on Agriculture. According to GSA attorneys, delegations of leasing authority to agencies would circumvent intent of Congress. If GSA forced to set priorities, we will need to set priorities within Agriculture to ensure that most urgent program needs filled first. (Contact: Bill Roth, 00, ext. 75225)

USDA NOT LIABLE FOR COURT COSTS....A requester filed suit because he had been refused access to OI investigative report. Since revised Freedom of Information Act then in effect, OI released requested material before case came to trial. Having won case, he petitioned court for USDA reimbursement of attorney fees and court costs. Petition was denied. (Contact: Rod Elam, OI, ext. 76979)

HIGHLIGHTS OF NOVEMBER 13 COUNCIL MEETING.....

- ...Position papers for December 3-5 OA/OI management conference to be distributed by November 18. One package to address specific agency inputs; other, outlining subjects to be discussed.
- ...Recommendations of Training Task Force to be followed up to see if agencies implementing them.
- ...George Knapp, 00, discussed proposed Motor Vehicle Management and Reporting System. Obtained commitment from Council to provide needed resources to agency motor vehicle people for feasibility study.
- ...Proposed system to assign Executive Parking Spaces discussed.
 Alternative systems suggested. To be studied and reported back to Council at next meeting.
- ...Coordinated Planning, Budgeting, and Management Information System presentation deferred until early December. Will be accompanied by critical analysis of MBO by McManis Associates.
- ...Mr. Bolduc discussed Forms and Reports Reduction campaign.

 Noted Agency Heads and Council to form key vehicle to accomplish reduction. (See item on first page.)
- ...Photocomposition Task Force to be formed. Will report back to Council.
- ...ADS preparing position paper concerning distribution of ADS headquarters costs and possible alternatives.